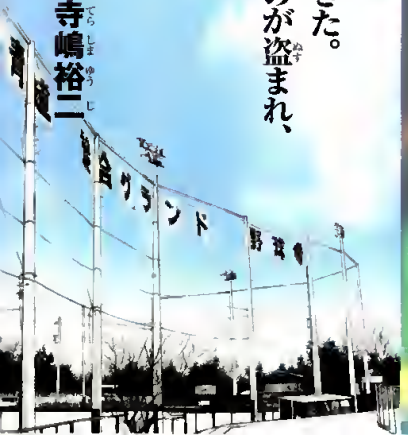
高二の時、部室で盗難事件が数回起きた。
グローブや現金、ジャージ、いろんなものが盗まれ、
自分はというと……
『はじめの一歩』1〜5巻……。
かえせ!!

寺嶋裕二



Shonen Magazine Comics

16

ダイヤのA エース

Yoji Terajima presents
Ace of Diamond

寺嶋裕二

KC MAGAZINE

ダイヤのA エース 16

寺嶋裕二

講談社

講談社
定価：本体419円(税別)

Ace of Diamond

準決勝、仙泉学園戦も中盤に入り、
薬師戦で降板した雪辱を果たすべく沢村[illegible]登板!
だが、仙泉・鵜飼監督の揺さぶりに得点を[illegible]てしまい、
なおも一打同点のピンチ!
さらに打席には、執念に燃える大[illegible]・[illegible]!
青道VS.仙泉学園、最大の山[illegible]到来!!

16
寺嶋裕二
てらじまーゆうじ
ダイヤのA
エース

降谷 暁
ヒッチャー
剛速球が武器の投手で打撃力も怪物クラス。持久力に課題あり。沢村最大のライバル。一年生。
ピッチャー
沢村 栄純
長野の弱小チーム出身。熱くて涙もろい。気持ちで戦う投手。出所の見えないクセ球が持ち味。一年生。
小湊 春市
セカンド
攻守ともにセンスが光る逸材。バットコントロールが秀逸。三年の小湊亮介は兄。一年生。
片岡 鉄心
プロ入りよりも母校でのる青道の監督を選んだ男。指導の厳しい名監督。
キャッチャー
御幸 一也
青道の要。投手の才能を引き出すことに長けている。新聞に取り上げられる、他校の監督が熱望するなど超有力選手 二年生。

青道高校メンバー 主な登場人物

ダイヤのA Ace of Diamond

小湊 亮介

青道一の技巧派プレーヤー。見た目と裏腹に毒舌。三年生。

結城 哲也

青道高校野球部主将。プレーでチームを引っ張るタイプ。三年生。

川上 憲史

リリーフ経験豊富な抑えの投手。気の弱いところがある。二年生。

丹波光一郎

変化球が持ち味の投手。死球で負傷したものの予選4回戦で復帰。三年生。

伊佐敷 純

強肩強打、すべてがフルスイング。見た目も口調も怖い。三年生。

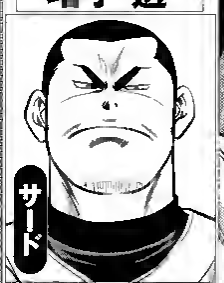
坂井 一郎

真面目で努力型。道具の手入れ、日々の自主練も怠らない。三年生。

倉持 洋一

沢村と同室。沢村をイジメるのが好き。鉄壁の守備力。二年生。ショート。

増子 透



パワー系スラッガー。巨漢だが温厚で無口。沢村と同室。三年生。

滝川・クリス・優

野球知識豊富で的確に後輩を指導。沢村が崇拝する先輩。三年生。

白州 健二郎

無口で控えめな性格で攻守とも堅実。川上とは親友。二年生。

第130話／揺るぎなく・・・5

第131話／見えない壁・・・25

第132話／決め球・・・45

第133話／まだまだや・・・・・・65

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第135話／夢物語・・・106

第136話／マウンドの心得・・127

第137話／堅忍不抜・・・147

第138話／サクラチル・・・・・・167

●週刊少年マガジン2009年第9号～第17号

この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません。

CONTENTS

Chapter 130 / Unshakable

BRIDGESTONE
TOKYO
!
TOKYO
A SQUEEZE—!?

HUH!?
CSK
TOYOTA
BALL!
THE RUNNER DIDN'T GO...
THEY'D EVEN GO TO SUCH LENGTHS TO BREAK HIM.
INSTEAD OF GETTING ONE RUN, HIS IMMEDIATE GOAL IS TO BREAK DOWN THE PITCHER—...
A PITCHER WHO IS JUST SUBSTITUTED IN WILL WANT TO GET 1 OUT...
ENSEN

ダッ
パーン!
CONCEN-TRATE ON THE BATTER—!!
DON'T MIND THE RUNNER!
HEHE
BALL!

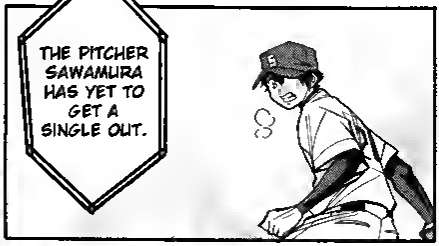
IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GET A STRIKE
EI-CHAN, GO FOR IT!
TKNY
EI-CHAN !!
RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE—

ONII-SAN!
SHAAA
I SWUNG TOO LATE!?
NO...
IDIOT!
DON'T HIT IT SO HIGH!!

Uniden
SENSEI
青道
Asahi アサヒビール
アサ

SENSEN GAKUEN RETALIATES FIRST BY GETTING A RUN.
YOSH!
IT WENT THROUGH —!!

NOW THERE ARE RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 2ND.


THE PITCHER SAWAMURA HAS YET TO GET A SINGLE OUT.

ALL OF SAWAMURA'S WEAKNESSES ARE SHOWING...
PITCHING FOUR BALLS, UNABLE TO STRIKE OUT BATTERS AND ALLOWING A FLY BALL TO GO OVER THE INFIELDERS.

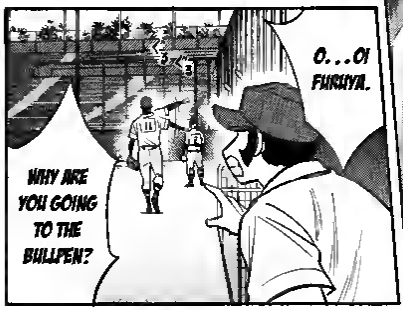
FUFUFU... WITH THIS, THE TIDE OF THE MATCH WILL CHANGE
I BROKE OUT IN A COLD SWEAT WHEN HE HIT THE HIGH FLY BALL...
KUH!
SAWAMURA, BALL TO FIRST!!

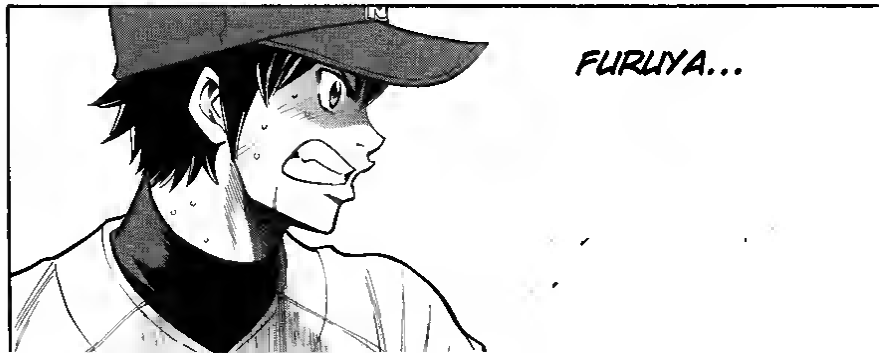
ALSO, THE TYING RUNNER IS ON 2ND BASE.
THIS IS A SACRIFICE BUNT!
WITH THIS, ALL THE RUNNERS HAVE ADVANCED TO THE NEXT BASE.
THEY USED A BUNT THE MOMENT THEY SCORED A RUN...
IN THAT SITUATION INSTEAD OF A SQUEEZE PLAY
THAT COACH...IS FAMILIAR WITH THE PITCHER'S DISLIKED WAY OF OFFENSE...
SENSEN'S LINEUP CONTINUES THEIR OFFENSE AND GRADUALLY BUILDS UP PRESSURE AGAINST THEIR OPPONENT.

THIS IS A DO-OR-DIE SITUATION FOR PITCHER SAWAMURA.
CAN HE OVERCOME THIS PINCH?
SAWA-MURA ...

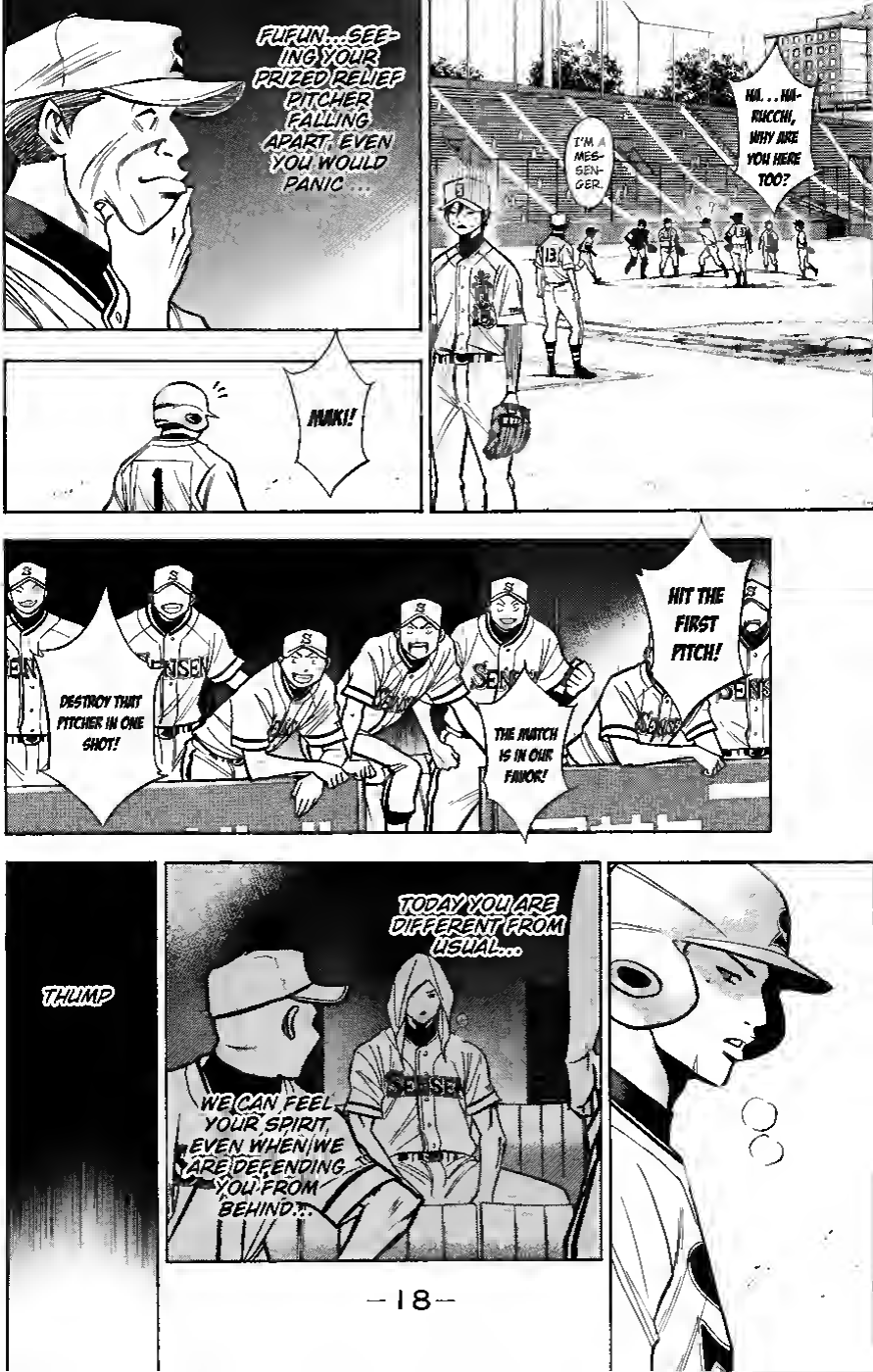
!

青道
アサヒ

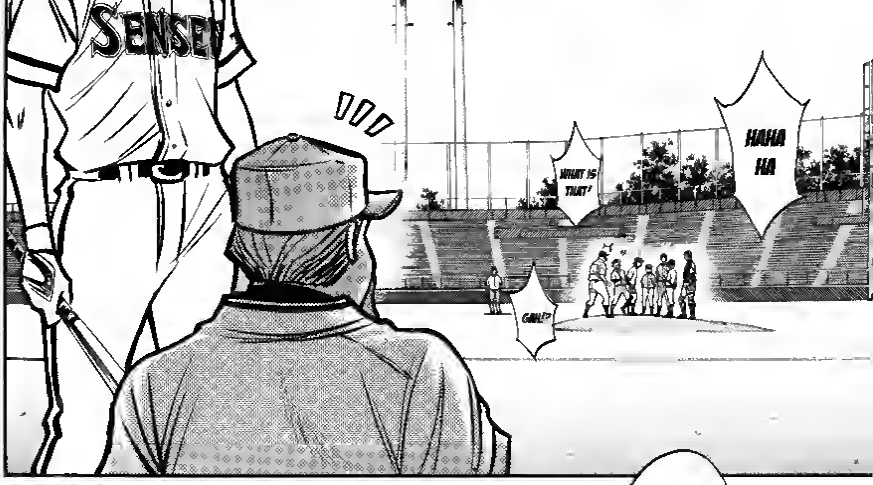

O...OI FURUYA.
WHY ARE YOU GOING TO THE BULLPEN?

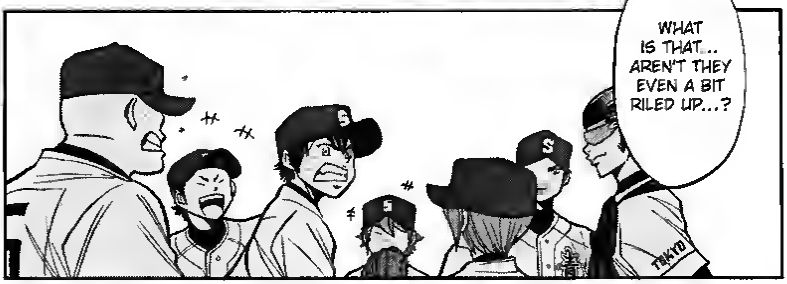

FURUYA...

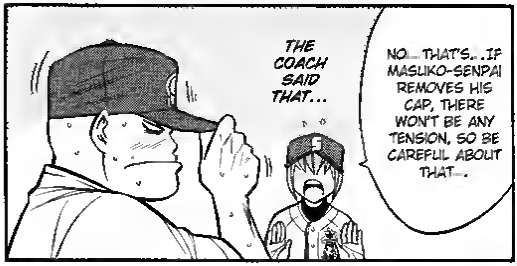
LEAVE IT BE! THAT'S FURUYA'S OWN WAY OF CHEERING.
IS... IS THAT ALL RIGHT, COACH?!
NO... THAT'S NOT HIS INTENTION
Ignore
DAMN YOU, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE RESTING TODAY!
Go sit on the bench.
FURUYA.
MIYAUCHI-SENPAI, CAN I JOIN IN YOUR THROWING PRACTICE...
KOMINATA...
DO IT BY YOURSELF!
Shocked
Miyakawa comes first
SEND A MESSAGE.


FUFUN...SEEING YOUR PRIZED RELIEF PITCHER FALLING APART, EVEN YOU WOULD PANIC...
I'M A MESSENGER.
HA...HARUCCHI, WHY ARE YOU HERE TOO?
MAKI!
HIT THE FIRST PITCH!
DESTROY THAT PITCHER IN ONE SHOT!
THE MATCH IS IN OUR FAVOR!
TODAY YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM USUAL...
WE CAN FEEL YOUR SPIRIT, EVEN WHEN WE ARE DEFENDING YOU FROM BEHIND...
THUMP

I JUST...FOR MY OWN SAKE—...
NO...THAT'S NOT IT...
QUICKLY SCORE SOME RUNS TO COVER FOR MAKI.
GRIP...
IF YOU SWING PROPERLY, YOU CAN DEFINITELY SEND THE BALL FLYING ACROSS THE OUTFIELD, TOO!
YOU WILL DEFINITELY SEND IT FLYING... MAKI!
WE'LL ENTRUST THE BATTER'S BOX TO YOU.


SENSEI
HAHA HA
WHAT IS THAT?
GAH!?


WHAT IS THAT... AREN'T THEY EVEN A BIT RILED UP...?
TOKYO


THE COACH SAID THAT...
NO... THAT'S...IF MASUKO-SENPAI REMOVES HIS CAP, THERE WON'T BE ANY TENSION, SO BE CAREFUL ABOUT THAT...

YOU...TWO ARE CRUEL!
Hahaha
WHY DON'T YOU JUST DRAW A CAP ON YOUR HEAD?
INDEED IT HAS BEEN BUGGING ME...

WAIT... WHAT KIND OF INSTRUCTION IS THAT!
WHY ISN'T IT FOR ME, BUT FOR MASUKO-SENPAI!?

Exhale
USE YOUR BAT TO SHUT THEM UP!
HN...ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE SAYING...
THAT IS JUST ANOTHER SIGN OF IMPATIENCE.
WELL, THE COACH DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO YOU SO THIS PINCH ISN'T A BIG DEAL.
HUH?
IT'S STILL THE MIDDLE OF THE MATCH!
IF THEY GOT RUNS OFF OF US, WE'LL JUST GET THEM BACK!
AT THIS POINT, WILL YOU LOSE AND BE CALLED OFF THE MOUND..
OR WILL YOU OVERCOME THIS SITUATION AND SECURE A CHANCE TO STEP ON THE MOUND ONCE AGAIN..
EVEN SO, YOU ARE STILL GIVING UP RUNS LIKE LAST TIME..

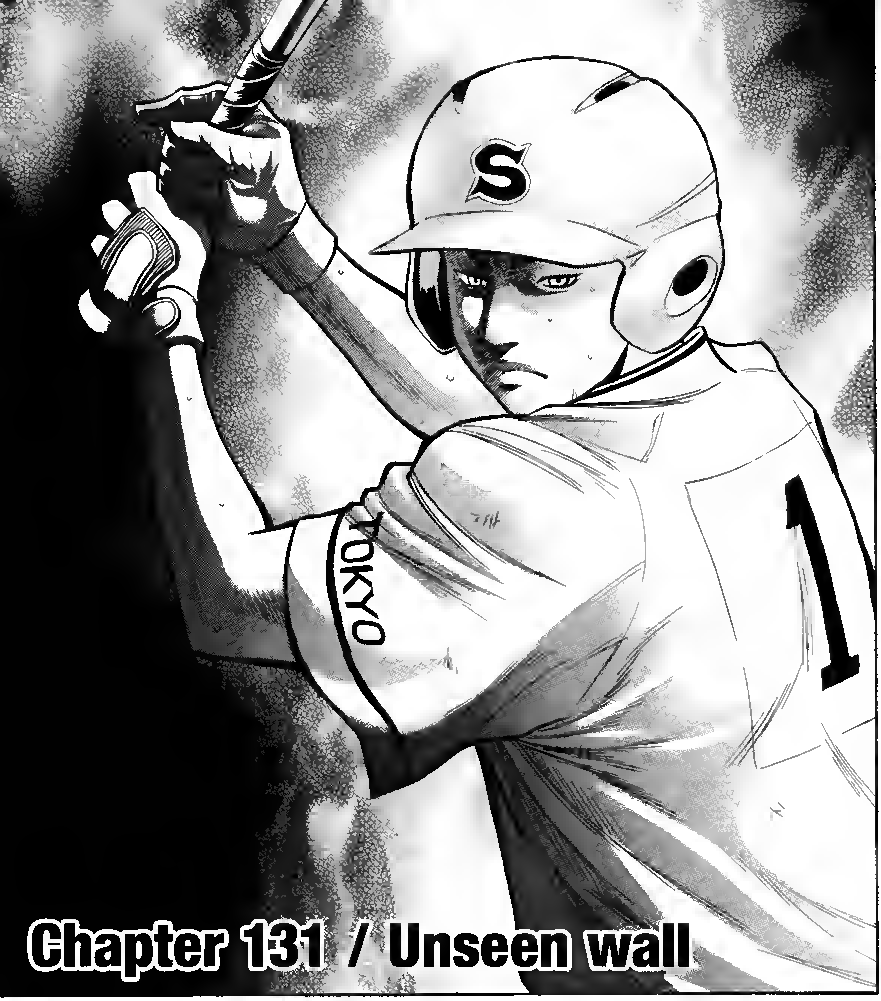
YOUR QUALITIES AS A PITCHER ARE BEING TESTED IN THIS SITUATION.
Grind
YOU ..AFTER ALL THE EFFORT OF GETTING HIS TO RELAX ..
NEVER AGAIN...
HEY HEY... DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE AFRAID TO GO ON THE MOUND AGAIN
JUST BECAUSE THEY HIT A HOME RUN OFF YOU
WHA...

I WILL NOT LET YOU SAY THAT AGAIN...
Keep it up
These guys
inhale

I WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE BATTERS, EVERYONE...
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE TOO CLOSE!
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
KIRIN
SENSEN

WE CAN FEEL YOUR SPIRIT EVEN WHEN WE ARE DEFENDING YOU FROM BEHIND...
TODAY, YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM USUAL...
SENSEN
SENSEN
ダイヤのA
I'M REALLY COUNTING ON YOU ALL...
QUICKLY SCORE SOME RUNS TO COVER FOR MAKI.
DESTROY THAT PITCHER IN ONE SHOT!!
I WILL GET THEM BACK...
MAKI~~~ HIT THE FIRST BALL!!
YOU CAN HIT IT!
TOKYO

THE RUNS I LOST
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
TOYOTA
I WILL GET THEM BACK MYSELF—!!



Chapter 131 / Unseen wall

SAWAMURA, PITCH WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT!
THAT GUY... WHAT A RECK-LESS YELL...
LET HIM HIT IT!
PERSE-VERE!
TK
GO FOR IT, EI-CHAN!
6TH INNING, 1 OUT, AND RUNNERS ON 2ND AND 3RD.
A CHANCE TO TIE THE SCORE IN ONE HIT.
AT THE BAT-TER'S BOX IS SENSEN'S ACE, MAKI-KUN.

KEEP THE BALL LOW AND FIGHT THIS OUT...
ALTHOUGH HE ISN'T AN EARLY PART OF THE LINEUP, THE BALLS HE HIT GO DEEP...
TOKYO
フワ
カキ
タ
0
0
0
0
0
0

EVEN SO, THE BALL STILL FLEW THAT FAR...!
THAT MOVING FASTBALL MADE HIM MISS THE MIDDLE OF THE BAT.

AS EXPECTED, HE HAS POWER.

FOUL —!

SAWA-MURA!
TOSHIE
THROWING AN EASY PITCH WILL COST US.
DID YOU UNDERSTAND THAT FOUL JUST NOW...
YOUR PITCHES ARE GETTING FASTER!
KEEP UP YOUR ATTACK!
20
HE'S TALL AND HAS LONG ARMS. THE WEAKNESS OF THIS TYPE OF BATTER IS AN INSIDE PITCH CLOSE TO THE CHEST...
YES!

AND FINALLY ONE TO THE INSIDE—
SHOW HIM ANOTHER OUTSIDE PITCH.
BALL!
TAKE A DEEP BREATH. DEEP BREATH~~~!!
YOU USED TOO MUCH POWER~~~

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO EASE UP ON HIS STRENGTH IN THIS TYPE OF SITUATION...
EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS IT
exhale
GREAT! NICE BATTING!
KEEP UP THE OFFENSE!!
IT'S HARD TO GET THE TIMING RIGHT, BUT
I CAN SEE THE BALL CLEARLY.
SWING THE BAT WITH ALL MY MIGHT—

SHARPEN YOUR SENSES WITH EVERY PITCH
THAT'S RIGHT CONCEN TRATE
AND THEN SEIDOU HIGH—
INASHIRO TECHNICAL SCHOOL, ICHIDAI 3RD HIGHSCHOOL
FOR YEARS, IT WAS KNOWN THAT THESE 3 TEAMS WERE THE TOP 3 IN WESTERN TOKYO.
I...
FEEL SO FRUSTRATED, MAKI...

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO FIGHT THEM ON EQUAL GROUNDS.
BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES, YOU FEEL INFERIOR TOWARDS THESE 3 TEAMS...
THAT IS WHAT I AM MOST FRUSTRATED ABOUT...

FOUL!
badump...

Zukun...
Zukun...

Zukun...

AFTER GETTING A LARGE HIT OFF OF YOU, THE HOMERUN FROM THE LAST MATCH MUST HAVE CROSSED YOUR MIND..
AND YET, YOU STILL HAVE THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES ..

AS EXPECTED, YOU... ARE DEFINITELY A PITCHER...
20

MAKI～～THE PITCHER IS GETTING SCARED——!!
YOU CAN END THIS!!
14
10
YOU SHOULD HAVE CONFI-DENCE, MAKI...
MAKI ～～!!
1
HIT IT!
YOU CAN DO IT —...
1

20
DESTROY THE WALL SURROUND-ING THE TOP 3—
BY YOUR-SELF WITH YOUR OWN HANDS
YOU SHOULD KNOW IT...
IF YOU THROW AN EASY PITCH, HE WILL HIT IT...
2
S

A FOUR-SEAM-ER RIGHT TO THE BATTER'S CHEST!!
GIVE ME YOUR BEST PITCH—

ダイヤのA
ドン
ドン
SENSEN
SENSEN
SENSEN

BOTTOM HALF OF THE 6TH INNING
BRIDGESTONE
20
ONE OUT, RUNNERS ON 2ND AND 3RD.
AT THIS RATE, WILL YOU LOSE AND BE CALLED OFF THE MOUND...?
OR WILL YOU OVERCOME THIS SITUATION AND GET A CHANCE TO PITCH AGAIN IN THE NEXT GAME...?
YOUR QUALITIES AS A PITCHER ARE BEING TESTED IN THIS SITUATION.

CHAPTER 132/ THE DECIDING PITCH

I WILL DEFINITELY
PITCH THE BALL THERE—

GO～～～
EI-CHAN!
ITALY
FIGHT HIM WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH ——!!
SAWAMURA, DON'T LOSE TO HIM IN SPIRIT!
TOSHI
10

I WILL NOT BE
THE ONLY ONE LEFT BEHIND...
HH

oo
ooooo
DEFEAT HIM!
MAKI ~~~!!

YOU STEPPED TOO INWARDS WITH YOUR FOOT.
THIS...
THEN YOU CAN'T...
SWING YOUR ARM FULLY...

BRIDGESTONE
WHA...
TOKYO

AN INSIDE PITCH...
HERE, ...AT THIS TIME...
TOSHIBA
THAT 1ST YEAR PITCHER IS ABLE TO THROW THAT KIND OF INSIDE PITCH...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN USE SUCH A RECKLESS WAY OF PITCHING...
SERIOUSLY THOUGH...!

STRIKE!
BATTER OUT!!

Parent fans

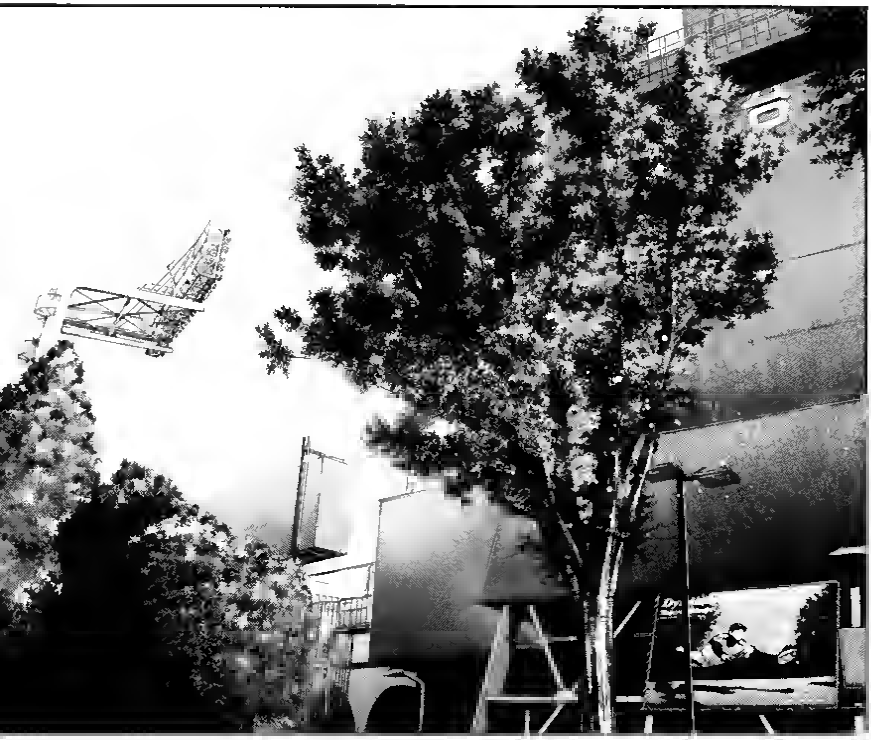
SENSEN WAS STOPPED AFTER GETTING ONE RUN
MASA-SAN
THAT NOISY 1ST YEAR...
しゃあぁあ
I SEE
THEY SURVIVED AND ONLY GAVE UP ONE RUN? IN THAT PINCH...
HUH?

Huff—
青道
THAT GUY CAN PITCH PROPERLY...
IT ISN'T STRANGE THAT THEY COULD OVERCOME IT
EVEN THOUGH HE IS A RELIEF PITCHER, HE PITCHED IN 3 STRAIGHT GAMES
"WHEN WE FIRST MET I THOUGHT THAT NO MATTER HOW WE LOOKED AT HIM, HE WAS LACKING SOMETHING IMPORTANT—..."
UH... IT WAS THE SAME FOR YOU BACK THEN.
FOR A 1ST YEAR, THE BEST WAY TO GAIN EXPERIENCE IS TO PITCH IN MATCHES.

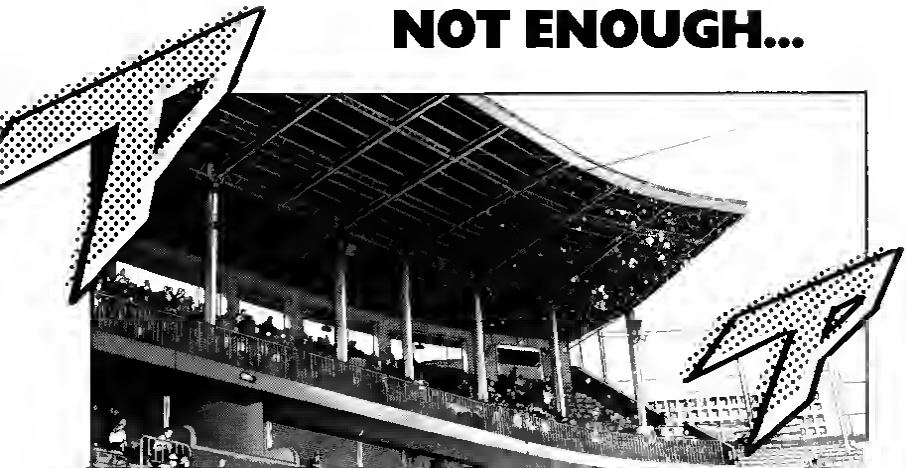
BOTH 1ST YEAR PITCHERS ARE SHOWING EXPONENTIAL GROWTH...
WITH TANBA OFF THE LINEUP DUE TO INJURY
BRING IT ON!
LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE A LITTLE MORE FUN

I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU FOR THE NEXT GAME AS WELL!!
SAWA-MURA!
YES... YES SIR!!
NICE PITCHING, EI-CHAN!
NICE PITCH-ING!
EI-CHAN!

ドカッ
GET BACK NOW!
HUH? YOU WANNA DUKE IT OUT?
THAT HURTS!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!!
AFTER ALL THE EFFORT TO LOOK SO COOL ...
TKNY
YOU ARE ALREADY A FINE MEMBER OF SEIDOU, AREN'T YOU?
EI-CHAN IS INDEED OUR HERO...
I'm sorry
TOKYO



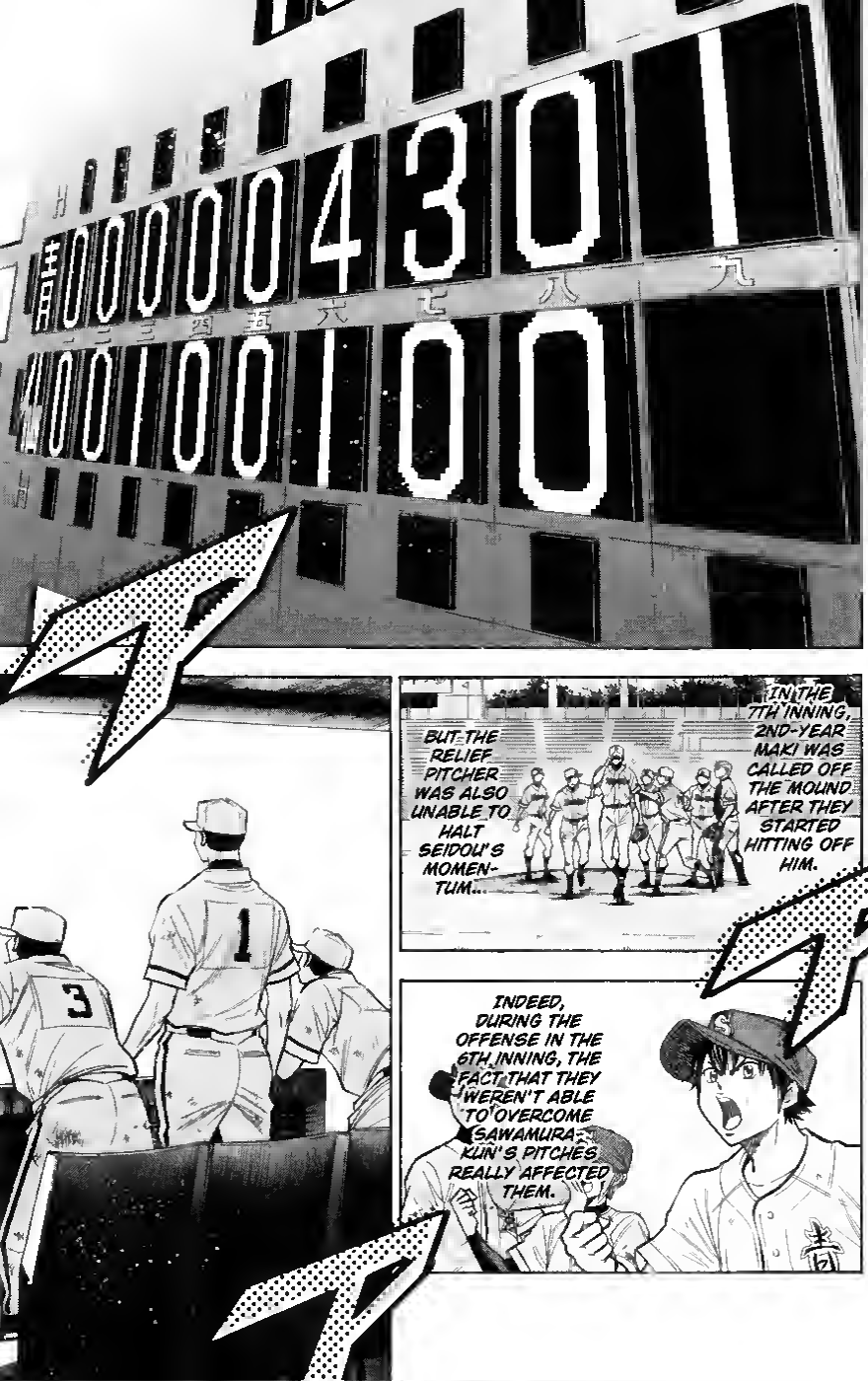
Chapter 133 / NOT ENOUGH...



SEIKO
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
KIRIN
SENSEN
SENSEN
7
SEIKO
KIRIN
TOYOTA

IT GOT THROUGH~~~
AT THE LAST MOMENT, THEY GOT BACK ONE RUN!
AL-RIGHT!
SENSEN GAKUEN STILL HASN'T GIVEN UP ON THIS GAME.
YEAH!
AS EXPECTED, THEY WON'T LET US WIN EASILY...
YEAH! LET'S DO THIS!!
GET IT BACK ONE RUN AT A TIME!

TOYOTA
ORR AA!
THIS IS WHERE WE MAKE OUR STAND, NORI...
HIT IT!
1 OUT, 1 OUT.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW SUCH A BEAUTIFUL HIT.
NORI-SENPAI, WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE IN RUNS!
GETTING BACK A RUN AT THIS TIME.
THIS IS THE WILL-POWER OF THE THIRD YEARS
GET 'EM ONE AT A TIME.


IN THE 7TH INNING, 2ND-YEAR MAKI WAS CALLED OFF THE MOUND AFTER THEY STARTED HITTING OFF HIM.
BUT THE RELIEF PITCHER WAS ALSO UNABLE TO HALT SEIDOU'S MOMENTUM...
INDEED, DURING THE OFFENSE IN THE 6TH INNING, THE FACT THAT THEY WEREN'T ABLE TO OVERCOME SAWAMURA-KUN'S PITCHES REALLY AFFECTED THEM.

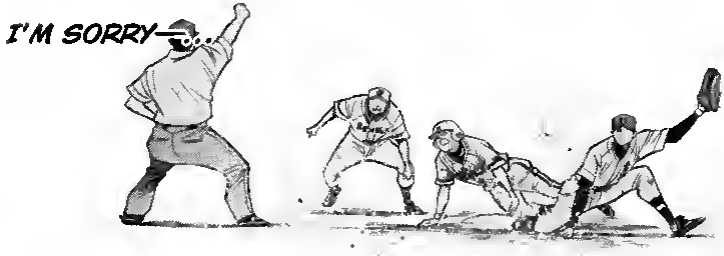
HIT IT —!
YAKI —!
SENSEN
TOKYO
ACTUALLY...
I KNEW IT ALL ALONG...

IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T SCOUT ME...
I DIDN'T JOIN SEIDOU
IT'S JUST... THAT TEAM...
I DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS TO TAKE THE LEAP AND JOIN THEM...
TOKYO
FOR SO LONG, I...
I WAS SO HUNG UP ABOUT IT...
SENSEI
EVEN SO...

I'M A MEMBER OF THIS TEAM —...
RIGHT NOW...
SENSEN
SENSEN

2
I'M SORRY...

I'M SORRY.


I'M SORRY...

GAME SET —!!
FROM 3RD YEAR TANBA-KUN TO 1ST YEAR SAWAMURA-KUN—
AND THEN FINALLY 2ND YEAR KAWAKAMI-KUN. WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE PITCHER RELAY!!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS, SEIDOU HIGH MADE IT TO THE FINALS——!!
SEIKO
SEIKO
CSK グループ
TOSHIBA
KIRIN
TOYOTA
朝日新
2

SFX STEP

AGAIN THIS YEAR...

THE WALL OF THE SEMIFINALS IS TOO THICK TO BREACH—...

OUR PLAYERS FOUGHT WITHOUT GIVING UP UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT...
THIS IS A GOOD, WELL-TRAINED, BALANCED TEAM...
NOT JUST THEIR 3RD-YEARS. EVEN THEIR 2ND-YEARS AND 1ST-YEARS. ALL THEIR PLAYERS ARE ABLE TO PLAY WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT.
SHUT UP!
CLOSE UP.
LINE PROPERLY.

IN THE END, THEY GAINED SELF-CONFIDENCE— THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL...
1
3
4
5
S
HMPH... GETTING TOO CAUGHT UP WITH OUR OPPONENTS, I'M NO BETTER...
SENSEI

I'M STILL NOT GOOD ENOUGH...
BOW!
THANKS FOR THE GAME!

NICE GAME!
MASUKO—!
TETSU-SAN!
YOU ARE THE STRON-GEST—!
ISASHIKI—!
NICE PITCHING, NORI-SENPAI!
TETSU—!
I STILL GAVE UP A RUN THOUGH...

NO NO NO... IS THAT SO!!
YOU HELD YOUR GROUND
NO NO NO... REALLY?
YOU PITCHED WELL TOO
NO NO NO, SENPAI WAS GREAT!
IN THE END... THOSE TWO DIDN'T PERFORM TOO BADLY. THAT'S THE BEST RESULT OF THIS GAME...
EVERY TIME WE ADVANCE, THE PRESSURE ON US WILL BE EVEN GREATER—...
THEY PITCHED WELL.
ALSO, THEY EACH ONLY GAVE UP ONE RUN.
WE ARE ALSO ABLE TO REST FURUYA AS PLANNED.
パチパチパチパチパチ
パチパチパチ

FINALLY, THE ENTIRE TEAM HAS SHOWN THEIR REAL STRENGTH.
SEIDOU VS. SENSEN
8-3
SEIDOU NEEDS ONE MORE WIN TO GET TO KOSHIEN.

Ace of Diamond

CHAPTER 134 / FAVOURITE

THE GAME BEGINS AT 1 PM...
CSK
TOSHIBA
KIRIN
INASHIRO TECH AND SAKURAZAWA HIGH, PLEASE BEGIN YOUR FIELDING PRACTICE.

AHAHA REALLY!?
AWESOME~~~!

EI-CHAN. YOUR PITCHING POSTURE CHANGED!
HAVE YOU LEARNED CURVE BALLS?
DON'T THINK THAT I WILL ALWAYS BE THE SAME AS THE PAST ME!
... HMPH. ... PEOPLE DON'T CHANGE THAT EASILY.
HIS MIDDLE SCHOOL FRIENDS CAME ALL THE WAY TO WATCH HIS GAME.
HEH
THAT KID CARRIES THE HOPES OF OTHERS...
ANYWAY... IS THAT GIRL THE RUMORED GIRL-FRIEND?
SHE'S CUTE..
GIRLFRIEND...
GIRL...
Woohoo!!

SHE... SHE'S THE WAKANA WHO IS ALWAYS EXCHANGING E-MAILS WITH HIM!!

WAKANA!!
SILAS

BAKAMURA!
BA...

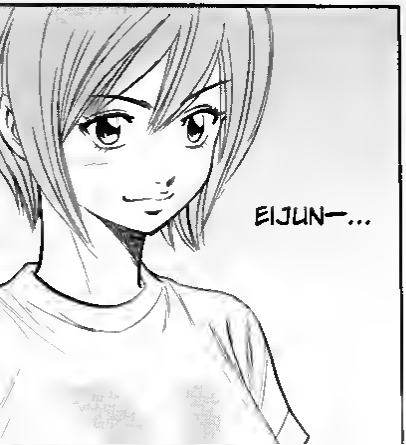
EH...

JUST ONE MORE, EI-CHAN!
YOU CAN DEFINITELY GO TO KOSHIEN WITH THIS TEAM!!

KOSHIEN...
MAYBE YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO DEBUT IN THE NATIONALS AS A 1ST YEAR PLAYER. COOL!
...
WE WILL DEFINITELY GO SUPPORT YOU.
WHAT IS IT, EIJUN.
I SEE... JUST ONE MORE GAME TO GET TO KOSHIEN...
EH?
EEEH-HHH!?!
ha ha ha
TO BE HONEST, I HAVEN'T THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY AT ALL.

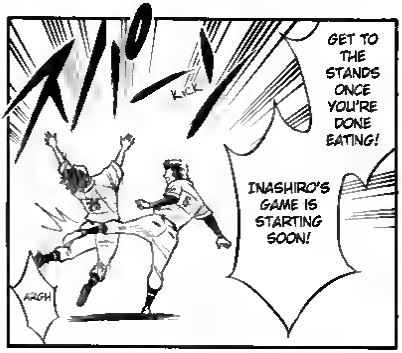
FILL MY ROLE FOR EVERY GAME...
JUST DOING THAT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
THE SENPAI ARE ALL INCREDIBLE PEOPLE..
RESPECT-ABLE... COOL.
AH THOUGH THERE ARE IRRITATING ONES TOO...
The Native

HOW SHOULD I SAY IT, I...
I WANT TO BE ON THIS TEAM FOREVER.


EIJUN—...

... HA HA HA...
I'M NOT GOOD AT SAYING IT THOUGH.

SMACK
AUGH

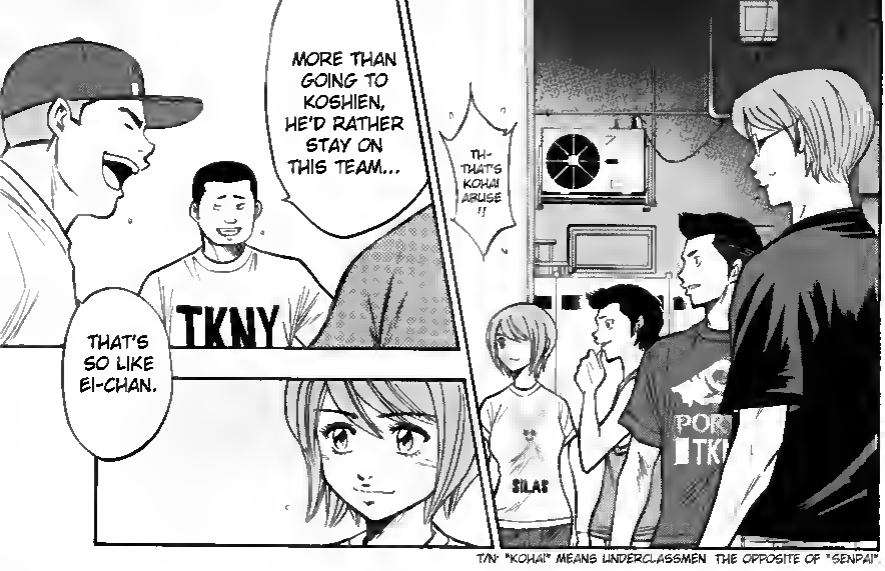

KICK
AUGH
GET TO THE STANDS ONCE YOU'RE DONE EATING!
INASHIRO'S GAME IS STARTING SOON!

I'VE BEEN CALLING YOU FOR A WHILE.

PLEASE COME SUPPORT US AGAIN.
WELL THEN, I'LL BE TAKING THIS GUY

COME ALONG!
....

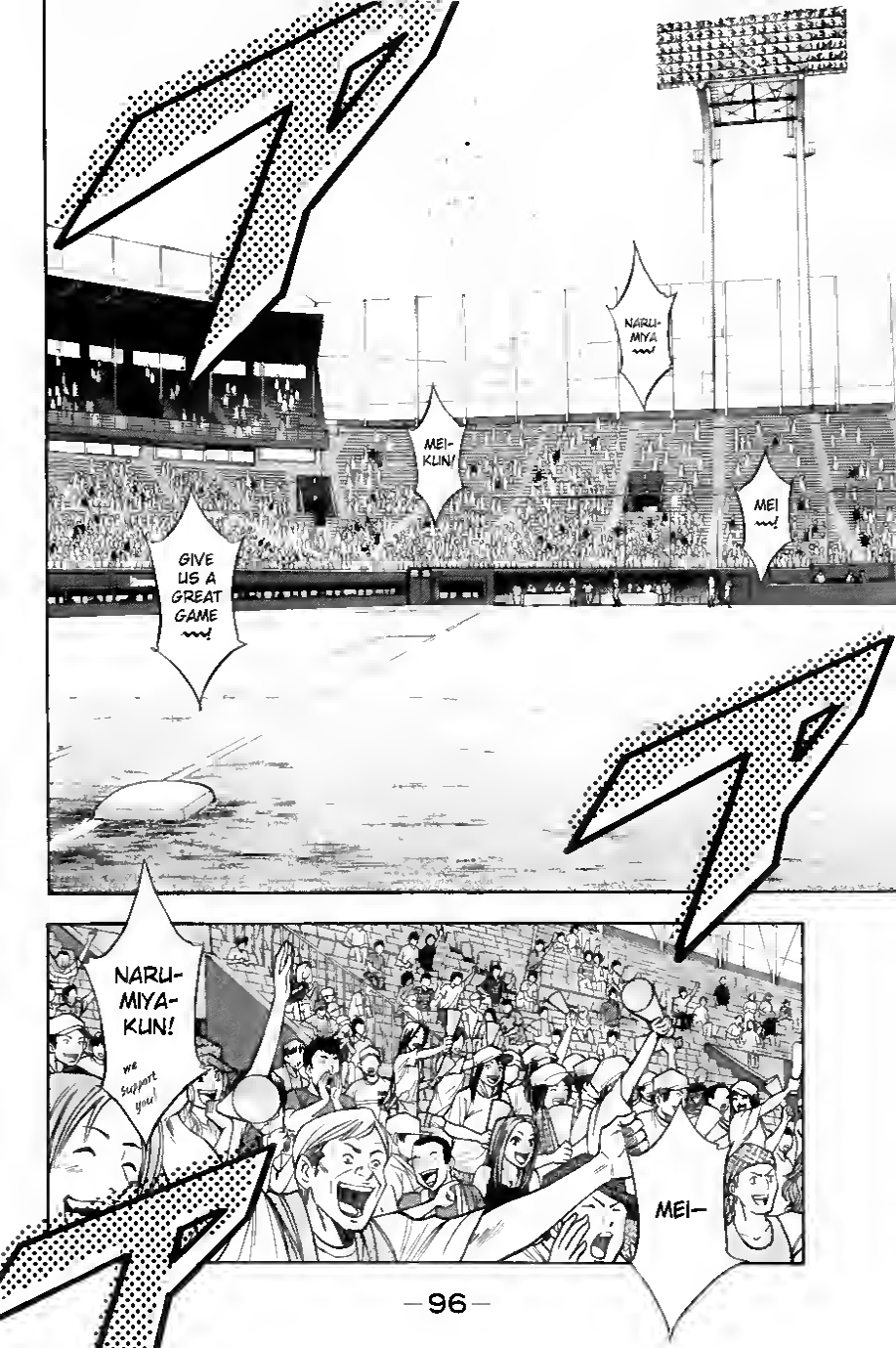
O-OUCH! WHY DOES IT HURT MORE THAN USUAL?!!
IT'S YOUR IMAGI-NATION YOU IDIOT!
20



TN: "KOHAI" MEANS UNDERCLASSMEN THE OPPOSITE OF "SENPAI"

ANYWAY, IT'S REALLY JUST ONE GAME AWAY...

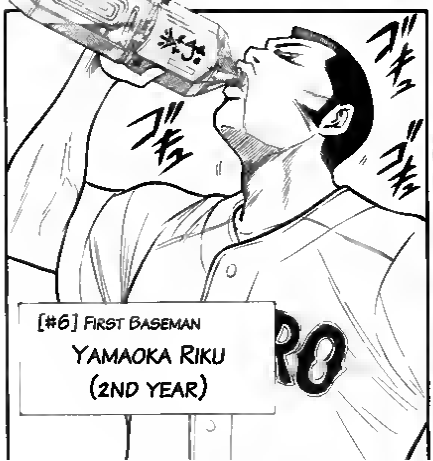
HOPEFULLY WE'LL SEE EI-CHAN STANDING ON THE PITCHER'S MOUND AT KOSHIEN...

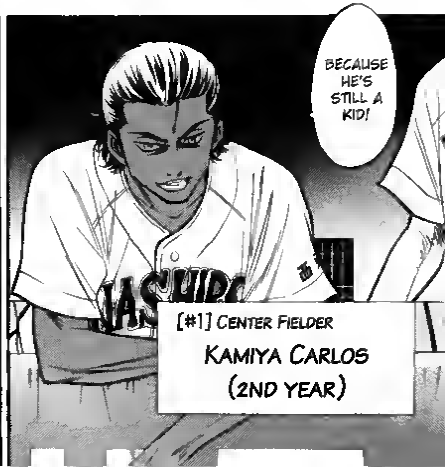

NARU-MIYA
MEI-KUN!
MEI
GIVE US A GREAT GAME
NARU-MIYA-KUN!
we support you!
MEI—

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HAS INCREASED?
INCREDIBLE CHEERS.
MEI-KUN!!
JUST TWO MORE WINS~~~!
GO FORTH TO KOSHIEN!!
WEST TOKYO FAVOURED REPRESENTATIVE'S ENTRANCE...
INASHIRO
INASHIRO TECHNICAL COACH
KUNITOMO HIROSHIGE

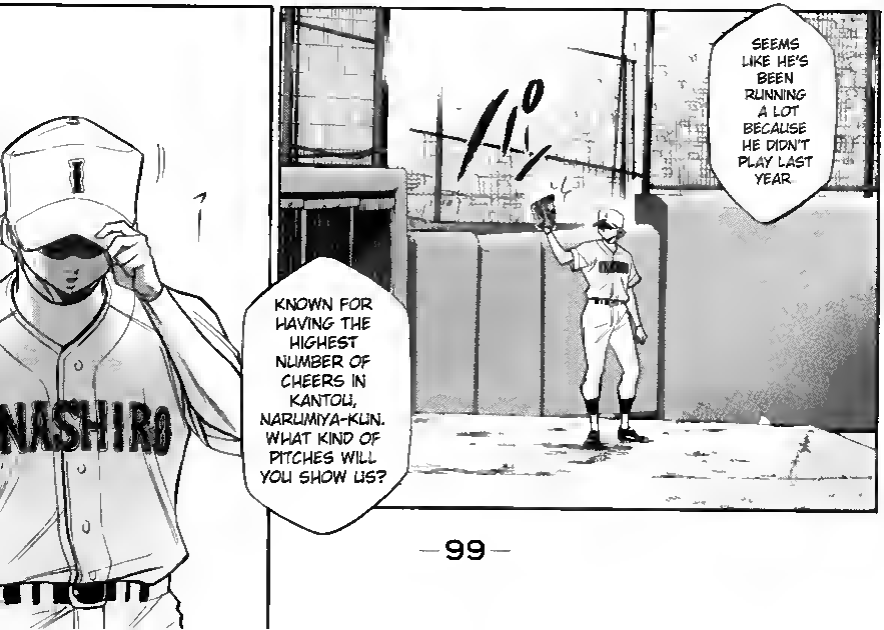
TCH... WHY ARE ALL THE CHEERS FOR MEI? I CAN'T GET INTO THE MOOD.
MEI
OF COURSE... THAT'S BECAUSE HE IS OUR ACE.
NASHIRO
[#7] SECOND BASEMAN
HIRAI TSUBASA
(3ND YEAR)
[#3] THIRD BASEMAN
YOSHIZAWA HIDEAKI
(2ND YEAR)

NARUMIYA-KUN!
BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND
[#2] SHORTSTOP
SHIRAKAWA KATSUYUKI
(2ND YEAR)


ゴキュ
ゴキュ
[#6] FIRST BASEMAN
YAMAOKA RIKU
(2ND YEAR)


BECAUSE HE'S STILL A KID!
[#1] CENTER FIELDER
KAMIYA CARLOS
(2ND YEAR)

TODAY'S PITCHES ARE FAST TOO〰
OOHH〰
京セラミタ


SEEMS LIKE HE'S BEEN RUNNING A LOT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T PLAY LAST YEAR
KNOWN FOR HAVING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CHEERS IN KANTOU, NARUMIYA-KUN. WHAT KIND OF PITCHES WILL YOU SHOW US?
NASHIRO

GETTING TO KOSHIEN IS GREAT, BUT JINGU IS ALRIGHT TOO...
[#5] Pitcher
Narumiya Mei
(2nd year)

PITCH ONE MORE, A FASTBALL!
[#4] Catcher
Harada Masatoshi
(3rd year)

YOU JUST WANT TO SKIP TRAINING!
HOW NICE IF WE CAN HAVE COMPETITIONS ALL YEAR ROUND

SEEMS LIKE HE'S IN GREAT CONDI-TION!
SHH
A GREAT SOUND FROM THAT PITCH!
YOUR SLIM HOPES... DREAMS...
YOU'D BETTER WATCH CLOSELY...
FUFU FU... LOOK~~
EVERY ONE IS LOOKING HERE...

ALL OF IT WILL TURN INTO DESPAIR-...
HAVING THAT AND CURVE-BALLS, IT WON'T BE EASY TO HIT HIS PITCHES.
SO... SO CRISP...

I WANT TO GO BACK EARLY... I WANT TO PITCH.
I WANT TO SEE EVERY-THING!
ACTUALLY... ISN'T IT GOOD ENOUGH TO WIN ONE OUT OF TEN GAMES AGAINST THEM?
...
IDIOT! DON'T SAY SUCH A THING BEFORE THE GAME!!
WHAT'S WITH THESE CHEERS?
THAT'S BECAUSE NO ONE HERE THINKS THAT WE CAN WIN.

ISN'T IT FOR THE SAKE OF THAT SINGLE WIN THAT WE'VE WORKED SO HARD AND PUT IN SO MUCH EFFORT?
PRO... PRFES-SOR.
桜
EVERY-ONE...
THE MOMENT TO RE-WRITE HISTORY HAS ARRIVED!
SAKURAZAWA HIGH COACH
KIKUKAWA SANAE

CHAPTER 135/
DREAM
1
TOKYO

It's time for the second match of the semifinals.
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
The game between Inashiro Technical and Sakurazawa High will now begin.
Teams, line up!

THE FAVOURITE AGAINST THE ONLY PUBLIC SCHOOL AMONG THE SEMIFINALISTS ...
THAT SAID, SAKURAZAWA DOES HAVE A BASEBALL CLUB...
BUT THEY WON AGAINST A SEEDED SCHOOL IN THE THIRD ROUND.
IN A WAY, THEY ARE FAMOUS FOR ALWAYS LOSING IN THE FIRST ROUND.

IT'S FAMOUS AS A UNIVERSITY PREP SCHOOL, BUT IN TERMS OF SPORTS--..
JUST THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE COME SO FAR IS A MIRACLE...

SAKURA-ZAWA PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL
ALTHOUGH THEY AREN'T KNOWN FOR THEIR ATHLETICS, THEY ARE KNOWN AS THE TOP UNIVERSITY PREP SCHOOL IN THE DISTRICT.
GOODBYE
RIGHT, GOOD-BYE →
GOODBYE PROFES-SOR~~!
I'VE JUST AR-RIVED..
IS PRACTICE OVER?
I SEE...
ERM, NO.. EVERYONE HAS CRAM SCHOOL TODAY...
AH...

SENSEI WAS FORCED INTO TAKING OVER AS CLUB ADVISOR BY THE OTHER TEACHERS?
...
IF IT IS INCONVENIENT, YOU DON'T NEED TO COME WATCH OUR PRACTICE
WE... ARE JUST EXERCISING DURING BREAKS FROM OUR STUDIES...
20 CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF LOSING IN THE FIRST ROUND...
WELL~~ PLEASE EXCUSE US.
ALRIGHT, GOODBYE.
YOO--OSH! ONE MORE!
HA HA HA
NOT A SINGLE PERSON REGARDS THIS RECORD AS A DISGRACE.
let's go!
TAKING PART IN THE COMPETITION ITSELF JUST FOR THE MEMORY...
REALLY?

FUH
SORRY AKIRA!
THAT WAS A GOOD ONE!
ANOTHER!
I'LL CATCH THE NEXT ONE!
THAT IS, UNTIL THEY ENTERED THIS HIGH SCHOOL.

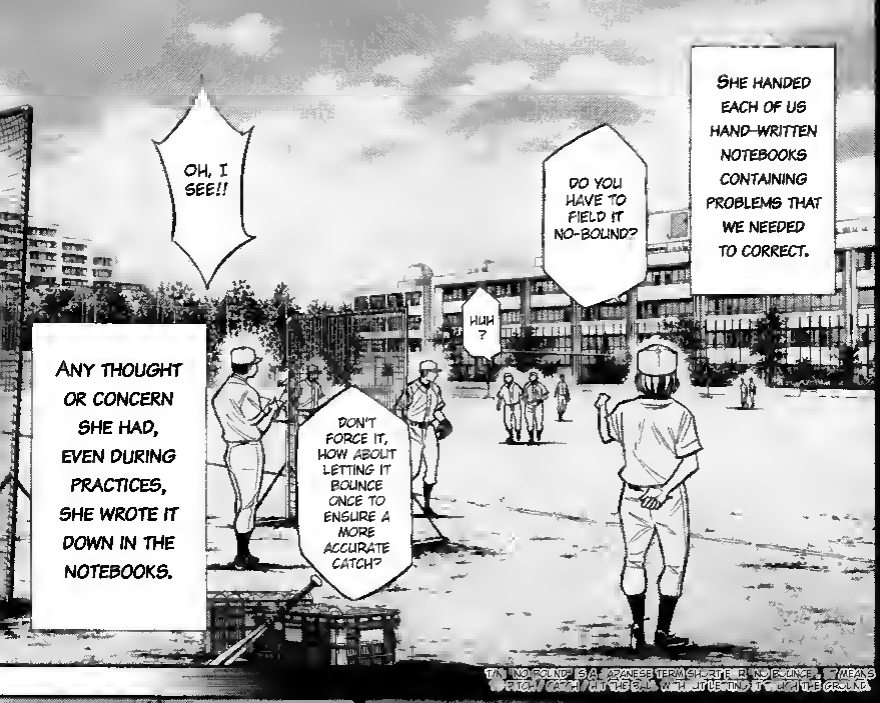
AH... PROF-... COACH...
AREN'T YOU ALL GOING BACK YET?
HE HE...
I'M ALL EXCITED. JUST THINKING OF PLAYING IN THE MATCHES...
NAGAO AKIRA (1ST YEAR)
THESE GUYS WERE ALWAYS SECOND STRING IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
SHUT UP YOU SEMI-REGULAR!
INAMOTO MASAAKI (1ST YEAR)
WELL, WE BARELY HAVE ENOUGH PLAYERS ON OUR TEAM...
SO WE CAN PLAY EVEN THOUGH WE'RE ONLY FIRST YEARS...
HITOKORO YOSHIMI (1ST YEAR)

I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY THIS PITCH...
COACH... IF...
... IF
EVEN IF THE PROBABILITY IS ALMOST 0%,
WOULDN'T IT BE A GREAT THING FOR US TO GO ALL THE WAY TO KOSHIEN?!
DON'T YOU THINK THIS WOULD CHANGE THE WAY THIS WORLD SEES US?

ALTHOUGH IT'S JUST HYPOTHETICAL...
HEH
I UNDERSTAND YOUR LOVE FOR BASEBALL.
KOSHIEN...
HMPH
BUT... AT THIS RATE, IT WILL JUST BE A DREAM...

THE TEAM GOT THEIR FIRST VICTORY A YEAR LATER—
UWOOH
YES!
ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T A PERFECT WIN, THAT PRACTICE MATCH...
THAT SINGLE VICTORY
CLEARLY CHANGED THE DETER-MINATION OF THE TEAM—
桜沢

THE PROFESSOR THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF STUFF
SEEMS LIKE SHE READ A LOT OF BOOKS ABOUT BASEBALL
WE HAVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENSE IF WE WANT TO WIN.
BATTING PO—...
THIS TEAM COMPLETELY RELIES ON NAGAO'S PITCHING...
TEAM: LET IT BE KNOWN THAT BOTH KYAGENS & TETSU THOUGHT THIS WAS A GIRL (ﾉ◕ヮ◕)ﾉ
SHE'S STARTING TO LOOK MORE LIKE A COACH...
THE LENGTH OF PRACTICE IS CERTAINLY NOT PROPORTIONAL TO THE GROWTH IN STRENGTH OF THE TEAM
すかん
HAH!


OH, I SEE!!
DO YOU HAVE TO FIELD IT NO-BOUND?
SHE HANDED EACH OF US HAND-WRITTEN NOTEBOOKS CONTAINING PROBLEMS THAT WE NEEDED TO CORRECT.
HUH?
ANY THOUGHT OR CONCERN SHE HAD, EVEN DURING PRACTICES, SHE WROTE IT DOWN IN THE NOTEBOOKS.
DON'T FORCE IT, HOW ABOUT LETTING IT BOUNCE ONCE TO ENSURE A MORE ACCURATE CATCH?

T/N: NO BOUND IS A JAPANESE TERM SHORTER FOR NO BOUNCE, WHICH MEANS "PERFECT CATCH" WITHOUT LETTING IT TOUCH THE GROUND.

EVERY SINGLE PLAY, DAILY PROBLEMS, AND FINALLY OUR GOALS...
AS THE NUMBER OF NOTEBOOKS INCREASED,
THE NUMBER OF WINS DURING PRACTICE GAMES INCREASED—

INASHIRO
W-WHY...
CAN'T HE HIT THAT SLOW PITCH?
CHRIS-SEMPAI
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT
GOOD ONE, AKIRA!
NICE BALL!

KNUCKLE-BALL PITCHER...
HOW IS IT?
ALTHOUGH I KNEW ABOUT IT FROM WATCHING THE VIDEO...
I DIDN'T EXPECT HIS KNUCKLE-BALL JUST NOW...

....
フチ
FUSION
コミュニケーション
INSTEAD OF FORCING IT, THEY GO FOR ONE-BOUND PLAYS AND SLUGGING.
THIS SHOWS THE STRENGTH OF THIS TEAM.
T/N: MEANING THIS TEAM IS WEAK.
BUT... THIS MEANS THAT THEY KNOW THEM-SELVES WELL.

ブン
ズバ
ズバ
THIS ISN'T CATHING PRAC-TICE!
UWOH!

Uniden
HAH!
ぶぃ
WHHOOA~~~ AN UNLIKELY THREE UP AND THREE DOWN FOR INASHIRO TECH!!
COULD IT BE... THAT'S A KNUCKLE-BALL?!
THEIR DEFENSE IS SOLID TOO, THESE GUYS ARE GOOD!!
SEIKO
SEIKO
Coca-Cola
TOSHIBA
KIRIN

DOUBLE-FIST BUMP?!!
Like catch. Here it?
THIS IS THE BEST START !
NICE PITCH, AKIRA!
NICE PITCH!
YOUR PITCHES WORK AGAINST INASHIRO TOO...
I AM PROUD OF YOU.
IN JUST TWO YEARS, YOU'VE HONED YOUR SKILLS TO SUCH A LEVEL...
IT'S TOO EARLY FOR THAT PROFES-SOR...

WE HAVE TO WIN THIS GAME OR ELSE IT WILL BE JUST A DREAM...
桜沢

CHAPTER 136 / KNOWLEDGE OF THE MOUND

STRIKE!
BATTER OUT!!
ﾊｯ ﾊｯ ﾊｯ
WOW...
HE STRUCK OUT THREE CONSECUTIVE BATTERS IN THE FIRST INNING!
HE'S IN TOP CONDITION ALL OF A SUDDEN!

IT'S LIKE THEY'RE SHOWING US THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR STRENGTH.
...
UNBELIEVE-ABLE
THE OPPONENT HAS THEIR OWN STYLE OF PLAY.
SHALL WE SHOW THEM OUR STYLE AS WELL?
...
THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THEM-SELVES WILL PAVE THE WAY!

WE HAVE TO SHOW THEM OUR OWN STYLE OF PLAY!
BUT SHE'S RIGHT...
桜
bam
bam
EVEN THOUGH SHE SUCKS AT FUNGO BATTING
SOMETIMES— SHE SAYS SOMETHING GOOD
T/N: A FUNGO BAT IS A SPECIFIC BAT THAT IS USED BY COACHES FOR PRACTICE
Asahi
LET'S GO!!
YEAH!!

TOP OF THE 2ND INNING, INASHIRO TECH TO BAT.
MASA-SAN!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, NUMBER FOUR!
MASA～!!
HE'S POPU-LAR～～
INASHIRO
BATTING FOURTH, CATCHER HARADA-KUN.

AT THE POINT OF RELEASE, SNAP THE BALL WITH YOUR FINGERS TO NEGATE ANY SPIN CAUSED BY THE PITCHING MOTION...
HOLD THE BALL WITH THE FINGERS UPRIGHT...
ピッ
AH— HOW WILL HE HANDLE THAT KNUCKLE-BALL?
HARADA HAS THE FLEXIBIL-ITY TO HIT A WIDE RANGE OF BALLS...
ALL RIGHT...
CHRIS-SEMPAI, CAN YOU EXPLAIN KNUCKLE-BALLS...?
EVEN THE PITCHER IS UNABLE TO PREDICT THE TRAJECT-ORY—...
THAT WAY, THE BALL WON'T HAVE ANY SPIN.
THE MORE ANXIOUS THEY ARE IN COUNTERING THE KNUCKLE-BALL, THE MORE THEY WILL PLAY INTO SAKURAZAWA'S HANDS.
IT'S NOT A PITCH THAT JUST ANYONE CAN THROW EASILY. THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED A MAGICAL PITCH...
YOU PITCH SOMETHING SIMILAR.
THE PITCHER DOESN'T EVEN KNOW THE DIRECTION...
THAT IRRESPON-SIBILITY IS SO TROU-BLESOME

Coca-Cola
TOSHIBA
THAT IMPATIENCE WILL UPSET THE TEAM AND CAUSE THEM TO MAKE MISAKES.
THE TEAMS THAT HAVE FOUGHT AGAINST SAKURA-ZAWA
LOST BECAUSE THEY WERE UNABLE TO USE THEIR TRUE STRENGTH...

BALL!
2
THIS IS A VERY TROUBLE-SOME PITCH...
IT REALLY HAD NO SPIN...
MASA-SAN HIT IT REAL GOOD! A GOOD ONE!
SHUT UP. JUST SIT THERE AND WATCH.

JUST MAKE CONTACT...
NO NEED TO SWING HARD...
THE TRAJECTORY IS DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE...

パン
OUT—!!
SHUT UP!
THAT'S SO FRUSTRATING, MASA-SAN
EVEN AS THE 9TH BATTER?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED..
NICE PITCH, AKIRA-KUN!
NICE PITCH!
YES, 1 OUT!!

I WILL AVENGE MASA-SAN!
INASHIRO
I'LL BEAT YOU UP!
BATTING 5TH, PITCHER NARUMIYA MEI.
NARUMIYA~~!!
MEI~~ HIT IT~~!!
...THIS GUY
校
NARUMIYA!

NARUMIYA MEI
KANTOU'S NUMBER 1 PITCHER.
UWA~ YOUR MITT IS HUGE..
I'M STRAIN-ING...
NOT GOOD...
I HAVE TO CALM MYSELF DOWN...
ONE OUT!
GET THEM ONE AT A TIME—!!

LET'S DO IT LIKE WE ALWAYS DO!
YO—SH! GET THEM ONE BY ONE!
LET HIM HIT IT!
NOW LET'S GO!
AKIRA —!!
I SEE... AKIRA-KUN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PUT TOO MUCH STRENGTH IN YOUR PITCHES...
桜
桜沢

JUST BE VERY CALM; LIKE NORMAL...
SOME HOW THAT PISSES ME OFF~~
HE'S RATHER CALM...
CALM MYSELF DOWN AND PUT EVERYTHING INTO MY PITCH—...

WITH THAT, HIS PITCHES
BECOME MORE RADIANT—...
WHA ...T
WHAT!

BATTER OUT!
I TOLD HIM SWINGING SO HARD WOULDN'T WORK...
STRIKE!

DON'T GET SO RILED UP...
DON'T USE TOO MUCH POWER. TAKE IT EASY.

THE ZEN MIND—
THIS IS THE SECRET TO BEING A KNUCKLEBALL PITCHER

T/N 4TH BATTER IS TYPICALLY KNOWN AS THE "CLEAN-UP BATTER", CLEAN-UP HITTER, OR SIMPLY "CLEAN-UP"

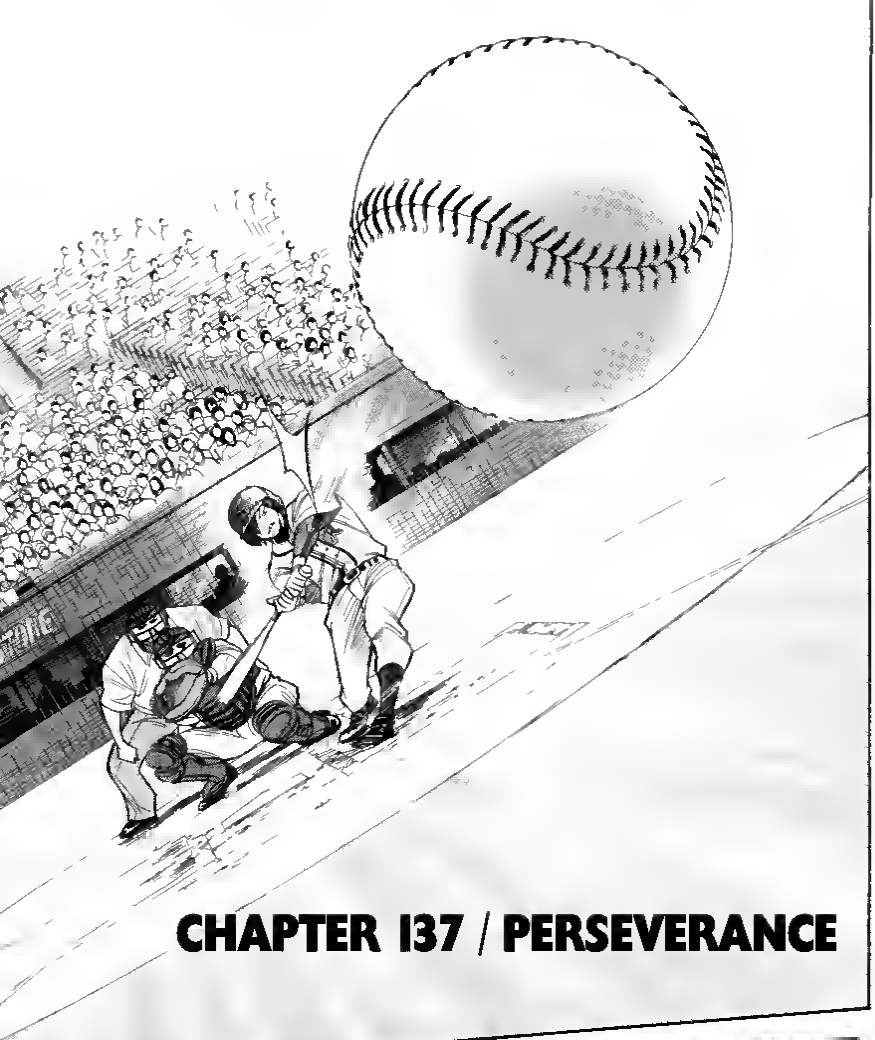
HE MUST HAVE SACRIFICED HIS ENTIRE HIGH SCHOOL LIFE TO LEARN THIS PITCH
THAT PITCH ISN'T SOMETHING YOU CAN LEARN JUST BY WATCHING OTHERS...

WATCH THE BALL CAREFULLY!
YOSHAAA! LET'S DO IT!
GET SOME RUNS FIRST—
WE CAN FIGHT ON PAR WITH INASHIRO!!
TOKYO

BATTER OUT!!
STRIKE!
... TCH
I WON'T LOSE WHEN IT COMES TO PITCHING...
SUITS ME JUST FINE...
ASHIRO

INASHIRO
ASHIRO
DIAMOND NO ACE

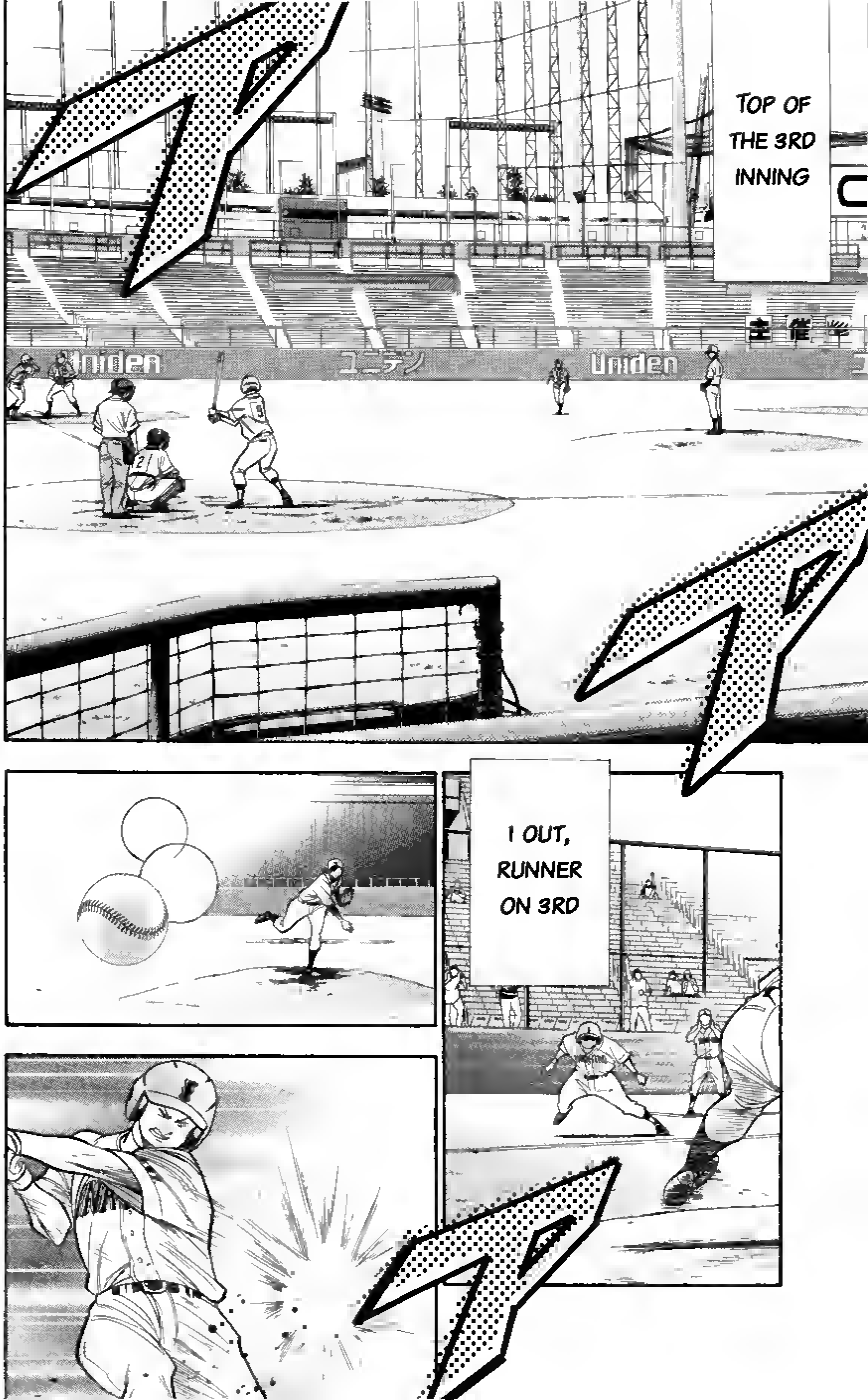
GUH... I SWUNG TOO LATE.
IN THAT CASE, I'LL GO 1, 2 AND START SWINGING...
OKYO



CHAPTER 137 / PERSEVERANCE

TIN A CHANGEUP USES THE SAME MOTION AS A FASTBALL BUT MOVES SLOWER, THROWING OFF THE BATTER'S TIMING SOME CHANGEUPS ALSO CHANGE TRAJECTORY LIKE A BREAKING BALL.
BRIDGESTONE
CHANGE-UP—...
CHA...
TOSHI
ASHIRO
THIS
IS KANTOU'S TOP-RANKED PITCHER—

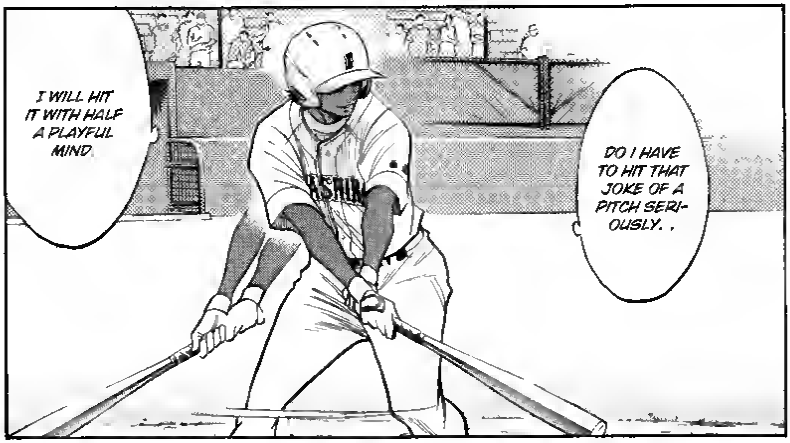
STRIKING BACK WITH YOUR OWN PITCHING ...
THAT WAY OF EXERTING PRESSURE IS SO LIKE HIS STYLE OF PLAY.
I SEE...
THAT'S A LEGIT OFF-SPEED BALL
AN EASY PITCH!!
WHAT A RECKLESS SITUATION!
COULD IT BECOME A PITCHER'S DUEL...
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THIS GAME...
INASHIRO'S STRUGGLING AGAINST THE KNUCKLE-BALL.
SEIKO
SEIKO
TIME
1:23
S B O
JUDGE
稲 0 0
桜 0 0

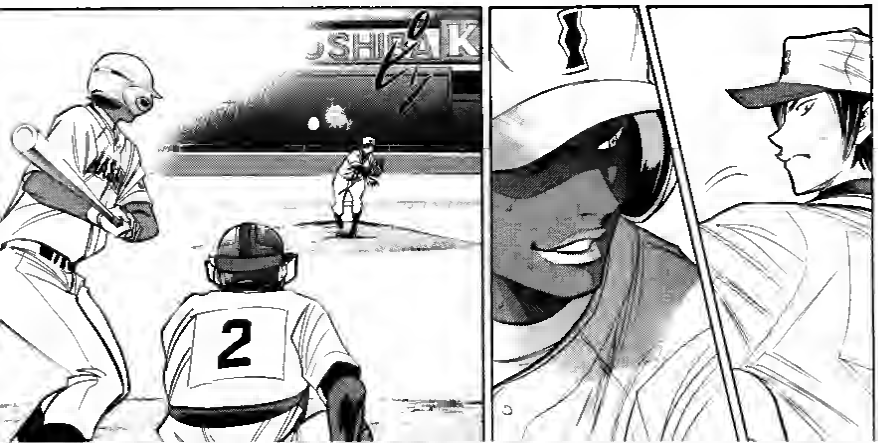

TOP OF THE 3RD INNING
Uniden
ユニデン
Uniden
I OUT, RUNNER ON 3RD

チラ
9
朝日新聞
しろ
THAT PITCHER... IS STILL SO CALM EVEN THOUGH THERE'S A RUNNER ON 3RD!
YEAH.
YOSHAAAA! 2 OUTS!
GOOD! AKIRA, NICE PITCHING!!

WHETHER HE WALKS THE RUNNER WITH 4 BALLS
OR ALLOWS THEM TO ADVANCE BY STEALING BASE, HE KEEPS PITCHING KNUCKLEBALLS
HE MUST HAVE ACCEPTED
THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES, EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS PITCH.
I CAN'T GET USED TO IT NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE IT.
NO. 1 CENTER FIELDER
KAMIYA CARLOS
グニ
グニ
バスッ

BRING IT!


I WILL HIT IT WITH HALF A PLAYFUL MIND.
DO I HAVE TO HIT THAT JOKE OF A PITCH SERIOUSLY. .


2

THE LEFT FIELDER IS RUNNING ALL-OUT—
HE GOT EVERY BIT OF THAT ONE—!!
GWOOO!

HA HA HA... I AM AMAZING!
YOU DID IT!
HE CAUGHT IT~~
FINE PLAY FOR LEFT FIELDER, FURUKI -KUN!
WELL DONE...
INASHIRO IS UNABLE TO GRASP THEIR CHANCE WITH 1 OUT AND A RUNNER AT 3RD!!
SAKURAZAWA KEPT INASHIRO SCORELESS THIS INNING TOO!
SEIKO
TOSHIBA
KIRIN

WE WILL FIGHT THEM WITH OUR OWN STYLE OF PLAY.
NO MATTER WHO OUR OPPONENT IS, WITH PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE...
IF WE KEEP THIS UP, A CHANCE
A CHANCE WILL SURELY COME—

BRING IT!

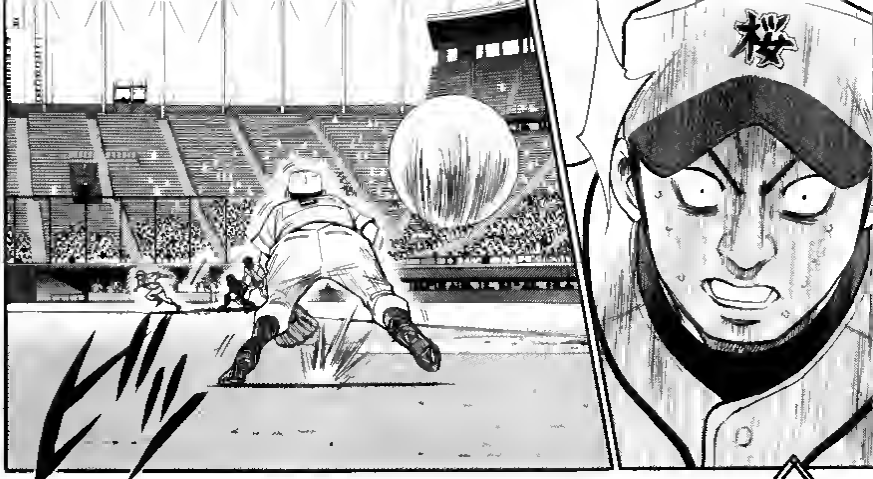
1
INASHIRO

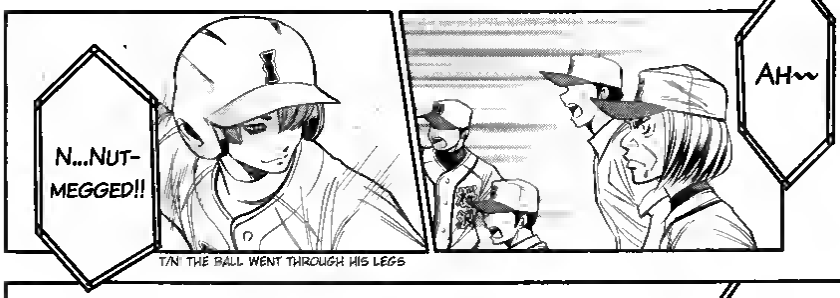
6
2
TOSHIBA

STRIKE! BATTER OUT!!
CHANGE!
OUR OFFENSE ENDED TOO EARLY...
LET... LET'S GO...
YEAH.
AT THIS RATE...
NO, MATTER HOW DESPERATELY WE DEFEND

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ...
TO SCORE A RUN OFF THIS PITCHER...?
1
AT THE RATE HE'S GOING, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO PITCH THROUGH THE 9TH INNING...
IF YOU CAN OVERWHELM THEM DURING ENDGAME, THERE WILL BE A SLIM HOPE—
EVERYONE... HANG IN THERE

TOP OF THE 4TH INNING, INASHIRO'S OFFENSE.
BATTING 2ND, SHORTSTOP SHIRAKAWA -KUN.
I... I CAN'T GIVE UP EVEN A SINGLE RUN...
I DEFINITELY CAN'T MESS UP RIGHT NOW





T/N: THE BALL WENT THROUGH HIS LEGS

T/N: THE LITERAL JAPANESE IS "WILTING OF SAKURA", WHICH MEANS FAILURE

CHAPTER 138 / FAILURE...

No outs, runner on 2nd.
The runner on 1st steals a base without hesitation!
In this inning, Inashiro has steadily increased their chances of scoring.

GET 'EM ONE AT A TIME, TAMUKEN!
OK OK!
Y... YEAH...
DON'T MIND THE RUNNER!!
YEAH!
COUNTER-ATTACK!
FOCUS ON THE BATTER!!
YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY AFTER OVERCOMING CRISES LIKE THIS MANY TIMES...
THAT'S RIGHT...
LOOK CALMLY AT YOUR SURROUND-INGS. TALK TO THE OTHERS...

2ND BASE!
キィン
3RD BASE IS NO GOOD!
1ST BASE IS FINE!!
カ!!

A~H! IT HOPPED!!
UNABLE TO THROW IT... TO 1ST!
NOW IT'S NO OUTS, RUNNERS ON 1ST AND 3RD
ANOTHER ERROR BY SAKURAZA-WA!

S... SORRY!
SORRY, AKIRA!!
TIME!
THIS... THIS IS BAD.
SORRY
LET'S. . COUNTERAT-TACK!
OI OI EVERYONE, YOU'RE TOO STIFF.
DREADFUL INDEED...
THIS IS UNBEAR-ABLE FOR A PITCHER.
WHEN HE WAS SO CLOSE TO GETTING STRIKE OUTS, CONSECU-TIVE ERRORS. .
BUT... WHY IS THE DEFENCE SO MESSED UP ALL OF A SUDDEN?

IT'S BECAUSE OF NARUMIYA'S PITCHING.
HUH?
IF THEY WERE TO GIVE UP EVEN 1 RUN, IT'S THE END OF THE GAME...
Uniden
アサヒ スーパードライ

THAT ENORMOUS PRESSURE IS CONSTANTLY COMING FROM THE MOUND—

PRES-SURE...?
F...- FROM THE MOUND..

YEAH...
SAKURAZAWA'S PLAYERS PROBABLY HAVE THE IMPRESSION THEY WON'T GET ANY RUNS OFF NARUMIYA...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THEY'VE EXPERIENCED THIS OVERWHELMING DIFFERENCE IN STRENGTH.
SAKURAZAWA WON BECAUSE THEIR OPPOSING TEAMS RUINED THEMSELVES, TOO ANXIOUS TO OVERCOME THE KNUCKLEBALL STRATEGY.
MEI HAS BEEN PITCHING HARD SINCE THE 1ST INNING TO CREATE THIS SITUATION...

桜
ビッ
ビッ
WHY ARE YOU ALL MAKING THAT KIND OF FACE?
HUH?
WE HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ANY RUNS AND IT'S STILL THE 4TH INNING
AKIRA
HA HA HA! SURPRISED? YOU'RE SURPRISED!

AFTER ALL, NO ONE THINKS THAT WE CAN WIN!
AKIRA...
...
BUT AFTER ALL OUR EFFORT, WE'RE ABLE TO PLAY BASEBALL IN THIS PLACE
DON'T MIND THE RESULT, WE WILL BATTLE WITH OUR STYLE OF PLAY TO THE VERY END

OSHIBA KIRIN
OOH!
LET'S GIVE IT ALL WE GOT!
YEAH!!

SHOUT IT OUT!
TOSHIBA
AKIRA -KUN...
GET 'EM ONE AT A TIME!
-AKI -RA-

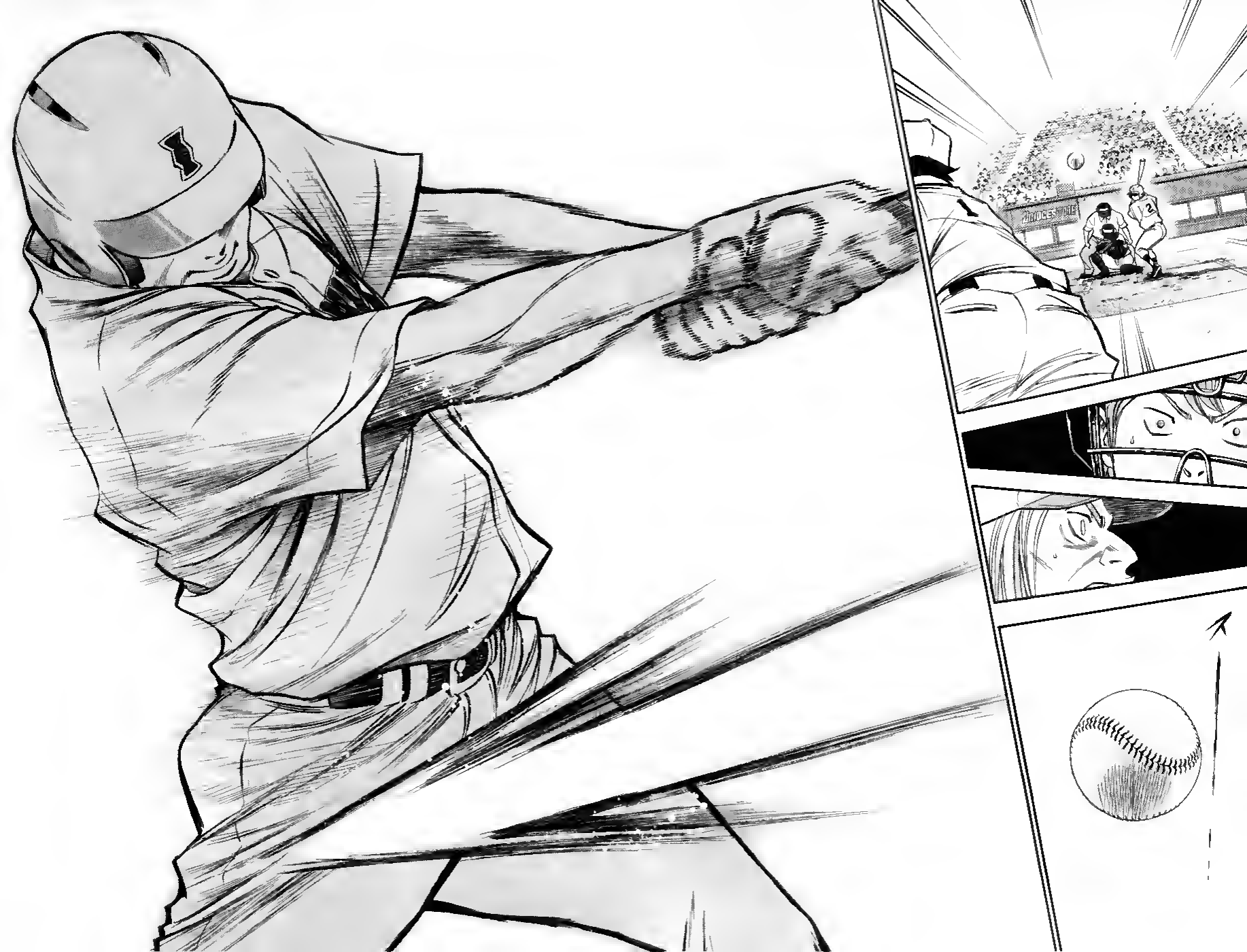
No outs, runners on 1st and 3rd.
Inashiro clean-up batter, Harada-kun, in the batter's box.
RUN IF YOU WANT!

STOLEN BASE!
NO OUTS, RUNNERS ON 2ND AND 3RD.
IF YOU CAN'T HIT IT NOW, YOU'LL BE STRIPPED OF YOUR 4TH BATTER SPOT.
SHUT UP!

IT'S FINE EVEN IF IT'S IN THIS STADIUM...
MASA-!!
HIT IT, HARADA!!
MASA -SAN!
DO IT!!
EVEN IF THERE'S NOT A SINGLE PERSON WHO WISHES FOR OUR VICTORY.
DE-SPITE THAT, I...
BKYO

THIS PITCH—
BE-LIEVE IN
TAKE SOME TIME BETWEEN PITCHES CAREFULLY
HIS SPEED IS INCREAS-ING
WITH THIS PITCH...
OUR DREAM WILL COME TRUE...

TOWARDS THAT STAGE...
DON'T BE TOO HASTY IN YOUR PITCHING... AKIRA-KUN!
MAINTAIN THE ZEN MIND...
WILL STAND ON THE MOUND AT KOUSHIEN—
WITH THIS PITCH, I...
TOYOTA
朝日新聞社
全国高



To be continued in Volume 17

INASHIRO TECHNICAL PLAYER INFORMATION

Vol.1

Narumiya Mei (2nd year)

- Place of birth: Tokyo
- Position: Ace pitcher
- Bloodtype: AB
- Bats: Left, Throws: Left
- Kantou Number 1 Southpaw Pitcher
- Confident, hates losing
- Really thinks that pitchers are allowed to be slightly selfish because they are pitchers
- When he was in Senior league, he invited the players he was interested in to form the strongest team in high school
- Basically hates training but if he thinks that is is necessary, he will see through it properly
- Has 2 older sisters, youngest child of the family
- Admires Player: Enatsu Yutaka

T/N: meaning left-handed pitcher

—STAFF—

栗栖正義　河端美穂子

山田聡子　齋藤優作　林本勇気

—SPECIAL THANKS—

小須田知子

—EDITOR—

KIICHIRO SUGAWARA

MASAKATSU MINO

SHUJI SATO

連載前から野球の雑誌を揃えはじめたけど、

その頃甲子園で活躍した選手が大学、

社会人をへてプロ入りし、活躍している姿を見ると、

なんだか応援したくなる……。

こういうのも野球の魅力の一つなんだよな——！

寺嶋裕二

WE DEFINITELY WON'T GIVE UP THE CHANCE TO PLAY AT KOUSHIEN!!
REVENGE FOR LAST YEAR!!
WE SHED MORE SWEAT, GAINED MORE EXPERIENCE, AND ACCUMULATED MORE EFFORT THAN ANYONE ELSE. ALL OF IT IS FOR THE SAKE OF GOING TO KOUSHIEN—
JUST ONE MORE WIN TO OUR DREAM STAGE...! DEFINITELY WORTHY OPPONENTS!
TOWARDS THE FINALS, THE FIGHTING SPIRITS OF SEIDOU AND INASHIRO TECH ARE FUELED!
INASHIRO
ダイヤのA Ace of Diamond
VOL. 17 PREVIEW

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

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